

Glacier County Commissioners
Tuesday May 7, 2019
Regular Meeting
Cut Bank, MT

The Glacier County Board of Commissioners met at a regular meeting scheduled meeting at 9:00 am on Tuesday May 7, 2019. Commissioners Michael DesRosier, Tom McKay and John B. Overcast was present. Mandi Bird Kennerly Clerk & Recorder taking minutes.

Present for the meeting: LeAnne Kavanagh, Pioneer Press; Jamie Greco, Vananda Yazzie, June Duncan, Crystal Evans and Renee Lowery, Library; Linda Luther, Carol Larson, Marlene Luedtke, Leland Crawford, and Kyla Presnell, Public;

9:12 am meeting called to order.

A. Roll Call

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Reading of the Minutes: n/a

NEW BUSINESS:

D. Discussion/Approval: Digital Records Preservation – Glacier County Clerk & Recorder

Clerk & Recorder Mandi Bird Kennerly presented information regarding new technology from Fisher’s Technology. It is a system that will take an ultra-high 24 megapixel image of the historical documents (books, microfiche and aperture cards) and create a searchable pdf file. The electronic documents would be hosted on their cloud and protected by the Department of Defense. This new technology is being used by the Smithsonian and Harvard. This would help making documents easier to locate; for example, road inventory and ownership. Fisher’s historical records digitization solution include one ATIZ Mark 2 large book scanning studio, one HP touchscreen all-in one workstation, laser fiche avante enterprise content management software with three-full name licenses, one Canon 9080C production scanner, Fisher’s onsite professional services, one microfiche/aperture card scanner with output to TIFF/PDF, and refurbished hardware server/standalone or rack mount. This exclusive deal expires May 20, 2019. Clerk & Recorder Kennerly is excited for the new technology, however, she is worried about the financial position of the county at this time. She was looking for grant possibilities to help fund the purchase. Mike Kittson found three grant opportunities that Kennerly is currently looking into to see if it meets the needs for the historical document preservation project.

E. Discussion/Approval: Library Proposal – Glacier County Commissioners

The commission has some questions about the library and the interest in combining the Browning library with the Blackfeet Community College (BCC) library and if this can be done. Library director, Jamie Greco, expressed concerns about the location and the location if community members have to walk to utilize the facility. The Browning library is utilized by De La Salle and the grade schools regularly. The current location is convenient for the people on foot and the school children. Another concern is the comfort of the environment and the issues of non-tribal members feeling uncomfortable accessing the “The Tribal

Library” on the college campus. The mission in a change of this nature is that it is equitable. BCC’s Medicine Spring library’s main focus is academic.

With the county having financial issues, Greco discussed the possibility of the county’s satellite office being moved to the Browning library. A move of this nature would save money for both departments. The Browning library’s budget was discussed including wages for two employees, utilities and expenditures.

Commissioner DesRosier spoke of this being the early stages of this discussion. The Medicine Spring library serves the BCC students as well as the community. It is open to anyone who would like to use the facility. BCC has security and they don’t let certain people in the library and they have extended hours. Man Power also provides computer services as well. Due to statute the county is obligated to keep the Cut Bank library open. The BCC representatives have expressed that combining the two facilities would be a great enhancement for the community. Greco brought up statutes 22-1-314 continued existence of all public libraries and 22-1-309 Trustees – powers and duties. She would need to discuss the proposal with the library board as they were not on board with a change of this nature. Greco would not like to have further discussions regarding this option until she has time to discuss it with the library board. The Medicine Spring library uses the dewey decimal system (academic) and is not as user friendly as the public library system. The commission ultimately has the final decision to this matter. Vananda Yazzie is concerned that combining the two facilities would take away a big service to the Browning public. The Cut Bank and Browning library branches currently utilize the Montana Share System. Greco has reached out to LaFromboise and the opportunity to collaborate and build a trusting relationship, but it hasn’t happened.

Department of Administration mentioned selling properties and the commissioners are facing hard decisions. Leland Crawford stated that Browning has low reading and graduation standards and questioned DesRosier’s advocacy for BCC’s Medicine Spring library. This discussion is not about the library closing, rather location and resources. The discussion continued regarding wireless internet and the public access. There is a need for facts and input from all sources regarding the possible consolidation. It is important to distinguish the public and academic needs to the individuals served at the Browning library. Commissioner DesRosier would still like to have a meeting BCC.

OTHER BUSINESS:--

F. Public Comment

Kyla Presnell followed up on comments from last week’s commissioner meeting. She brought up Statutes 7-5-2122 and 7-1-2123. The commissioners didn’t break the statute by going, however it states that during the next meeting the elected official must state their business for the minutes. This was done as the commissioner discussed School District 9. Kavanagh added that the quorum wasn’t noticed and it should be. Commissioner DesRosier responded that is a decision for the courts/judge and jury.

Presnell also discussed projects and their prioritization. The prioritization is based on the importance of the project, as well as available funding.

Commissioner Tom McKay motioned to adjourn at 10:59 am. Commissioner John Overcast seconds the motion; the motion carried.

G. Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 14, 2019 Browning